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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,157	06/22/2005	Francois Simal	2005-0869A	1454

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WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
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SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

ASINOVSKY, OLGA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/537,157	Applicant(s) SIMAL ET AL.	
	Examiner Olga Asinovsky	Art Unit 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-10 and 20-23, drawn to a branched polymer comprising an acrylic copolymer comprising a core polymer and shell polymer wherein said acrylic copolymer is obtained by radical polymerization.

Group II, claim(s) 11-19, drawn to a method for producing a branched polymer in the presence of a polymerization initiator and a metal catalyst.

Group III, claim(s) 24-25, drawn to a composition comprising two or more incompatible acrylic polymer together with a compatibilising agent comprising an acrylic copolymer.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Independent claim 1 is a composition/product produced by using a radical polymerization process condition. Independent claim 1 is either obvious or anticipated by Matyjaszewski et al U.S. Patent 5,763,548, or Ma U.S. Patent 5,721,330, or Novak U.S. Patent 4,097,553, or Shinoda U.S. Patent 6,395,836, or Tsuji et al U.S. Patent 7,211,625. Matyjaszewski discloses a graft copolymer produced by radical polymerization based on atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP), an initiator and ligand, column 4, lines 15-18. Ma discloses acrylic copolymer produced in the presence of a radical initiator and a transition metal complex as a catalytic chain transfer agent, column 3, lines 57-65. Novak discloses a graft acrylic copolymer produced in the present of a free radical initiator, column 2, lines 33-60 and column 4, line 23. Shinoda discloses acrylic core/shell copolymer latex produced in the presence of a free radical initiator, column 6, line 46 and column 4, lines 59-64. Tsuji teaches a block copolymer comprising a methacrylic ester polymer block and an acrylic ester polymer block, wherein said block copolymer is produced by radical polymerization in the presence of a chain transfer agent such as a thiocarbonylthio compound, column 2, lines 46-50 and column 1, lines 59-66.

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Invention in Group II requires a polymerization initiator and a metal catalyst; presumably, a metal catalyst is different from a polymerization initiator. There is no definition for radical polymerization in claim 1.

3. Accordingly, as the recited composition does not make a contribution over the prior art, unity of invention is lacking and restriction is appropriate.

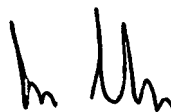
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olga Asinovsky whose telephone number is 571-272-1066. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

O. A

July 09, 2007



James J. Seidleck
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700